

9. COMMUNITY FACILITIES PLAN

INTRODUCTION

The Community Survey included several questions regarding Enfield's community services. Survey results indicated that respondents were only moderately satisfied with their public schools (61.9%), parks and recreation (50.6%) and town government (39.9%). There was mixed satisfaction levels for public works with 51.1% positive ratings for road and highway work and 81.6% positive ratings for trash collection and recycling. Strongest community service satisfaction ratings were for the police department (82.9%), fire department (94.2%), public library (88.6%) and the emergency service (82.7%).

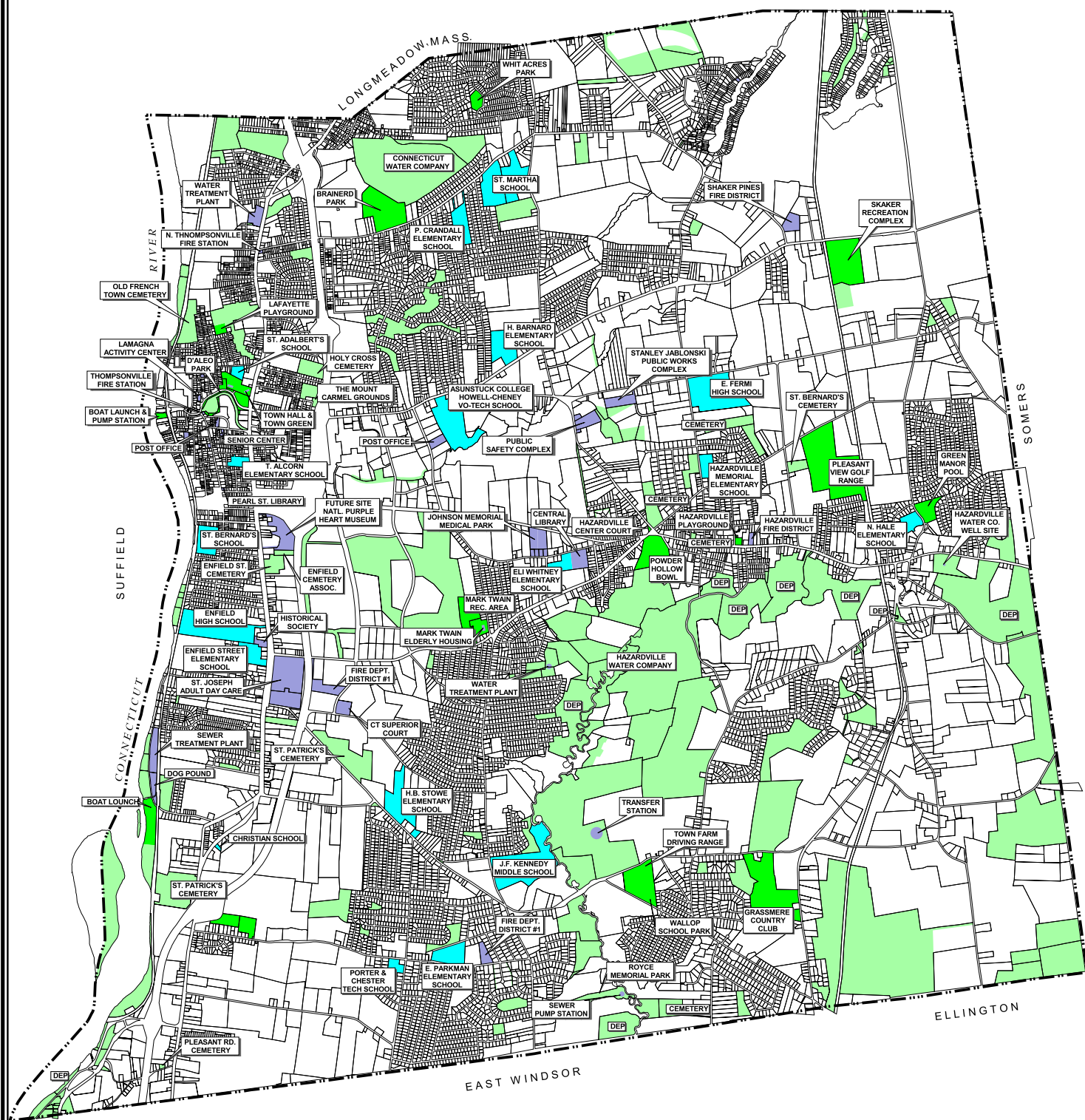
The survey responses were not directly comparable to opinions surveyed as part of the 1987 Plan Update. The one area where the surveys had a common question or issue was roads and in 1986 as in the current survey, the community opinion was that there was a need for improvement in this area.

The Town Plan of Conservation and Development tends to be facility oriented. As the inventory, location and condition of various community facilities is reviewed here, areas for improvement will be identified. But where the resident satisfaction or dissatisfaction stems from department operations and programs, improvement efforts are beyond the scope of this plan and would need to be addressed on a management basis. Supplementary community surveys to elicit more detail in areas of limited satisfaction may be helpful to identify and address program and management issues.

The several types of municipal facilities are reviewed below. They are considered in terms of changes since the 1987 Plan and in terms of community survey responses, as well as neighborhood meetings and advisory committee input.

SCHOOLS

The Enfield school system consists of nine elementary schools, one middle school and two high schools. The facilities are listed below and shown on the Community Facilities Map.



LEGEND

- Schools
- Community Facilities
- Parks & Recreation
- Open Space & Conservation Areas

Community Facilities

Planning and Zoning Commission
Town of Enfield, Connecticut

Plan of Conservation
and Development



SOURCE OF BASE MAP:
TOWN OF ENFIELD TAX MAPS AS DIGITIZED BY
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ASSOCIATES, Incorporated
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Table 24
Enfield Public School Enrollment and Capacity

School	Grades	1987 Rated Capacity	1997 Program Capacity	9/1/86 Enrollment	10/1/97 Enrollment
Prudence Crandall School	PK - 6	750	456	413	499
Thomas Alcorn School	K - 6	720	460	332	311
Henry Barnard School	K - 6	510	488	277	518
Enfield Street School	PK - 6	603	391	282	301
E.H. Parkman School	K - 6	750	477	378	483
H.B. Stowe School	K - 6	600	348	277	282
Eli Whitney School	K - 6	780	477	409	456
Hazardville Memorial School	K - 6	603	435	393	408
Nathan Hale School	K - 6	540	328	234	273
Kennedy Middle School	7 - 8	1,800	1,150	944	1,050
Enfield Head Start Program	PK				72
Enfield High School	9 - 12	1,600	900	933	826
E. Fermi High School	9 - 12	2,200	1,260	1,359	1,099
Special Education					166
Pre-School					22
Total Enrollment				6,231	6,766

The current enrollment breakdown is about 3,687 students in PK - 6, 1,090 in middle school and 1,989 in high school. The total enrollment is increased 535 students from the enrollment at the time of the 1987 Plan of Development.

The rated capacity of the school facilities in 1987 was 11,456 students. As of 1987, based on actual enrollment compared to rated capacity, Enfield Schools overall were operating with about 46% excess capacity available. Rated capacity, however, is focused on total potential student stations without regard to program functions. Program capacity tends to run below rated capacity. Effective capacity is also impacted by the locally acceptable pupil/teacher ratio.

A Committee Report on "Equalization and Expansion" was prepared in 1990 based on forecast enrollment estimated at 3,879 PK - 6 students in 1994 - 95. In that report, the lower schools were evaluated in terms of the classroom sized rooms and special rooms available with consideration to special program requirements. The acceptable classroom pupil/teacher ratio was set at 22:1 and it was estimated that 7 program rooms were requested at each elementary school for activities such as art, "edge program", music, itinerant teachers, library, remedial reading, remedial math and resource room. In addition to program rooms, special needs at the elementary level were estimated to require 22 rooms for head start, early intervention and special education. Elementary school needs were summarized as follows:

Enrollment @ 22:1 pupil/teacher	176
Special needs	22
Program rooms @ 7 per school	63
Total rooms needed	261
Rooms available as of 2/90	221
Estimated shortage	40

Since that 1990 report was presented, renovations have been made at some elementary schools to create additional special program rooms and actual enrollment is about 300 students below forecast.

Almost \$5,000,000 in capital improvements to school facilities are planned over the next several years. That amount is exclusive of gymnasium and outdoor recreation improvements mentioned in the Plan's section on recreation. Most improvements are maintenance and upgrade items - boilers, re-roofing, code updates, heating, door replacement, paving. A new storage building is planned at Enfield High. Code upgrades have been on-going and the Alcorn School received major renovations in 1994.

Available K - 6 classrooms remain at the 1990 count of 194. Of those, 157 are in use as classrooms with 37 available for other functions and in fact 32 are used for a variety of program needs. The total of classrooms and special rooms used for program needs runs very close to the 1990 study estimate of 7 per school.

While the overall system enrollment is within overall program capacity, three schools - Barnard, Crandall and Parkman, have 1997 enrollments in excess of building capacity. At the same time, Hazardville Memorial School has two classrooms available and Parkman which is 6 students above capacity has one classroom available. On average the classroom pupils to teacher ratio is 21:1 at the elementary level with variations amongst individual classrooms from a low of 14.7:1 to a high of 27:1.

FIRE PROTECTION

Enfield is served by five fire departments: Enfield (District #1), North Thompsonville, Hazardville, Shaker Pines and Thompsonville. The departments have a core staff of full-time personnel supplemented with a volunteer force. An exception is the Thompsonville department which is entirely full-time paid personnel.

A facilities profile of the fire departments is listed below. Station locations are illustrated on the Community Facilities Map.

Enfield Fire Department

Stations: Two, 200 Phoenix Avenue and 199 Weymouth Road

Equipment: 3 class A pumpers, 1 quint, 1 aerial, 1 heavy duty rescue, 1 mini pumper, 1 brush vehicle and 2 command vehicles.

North Thompsonville Fire Department

Stations: One, 439 Enfield Street

Equipment: 3 class A pumpers, 1 100' tower ladder, 1 rescue truck, 1 command vehicle.

Hazardville Fire Department

Stations: One, 385 Hazard Avenue

Equipment: 1 aerial, 3 class A pumpers, 1 command vehicle.

Shaker Pines Fire Department

Stations: One, 37 Bacon Road

Equipment: 2 class A pumpers, 1 mini pumper, 1 brush truck, 1 equipment vehicle, 1 command vehicle.

Thompsonville Fire Department

Stations: One, 11 Pearl Street

Equipment: 1 aerial, 3 class A pumpers, 1 mini pumper, 1 bucket truck, 1 command vehicle, 1 investigation vehicle.

The combined force of the several departments totals about 30+ full-time personnel and 165+ volunteers. The fire departments received the highest overall satisfaction rating amongst all community services in the community survey conducted as part of the Plan Update.

POLICE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

The Enfield Police Department operates out of the Public Safety Complex at 293 Elm Street. The facility is modern and centrally located to the distribution of the Town population and development. The department also operates the ambulance service for emergency medical response assisted by the fire departments.

Capital equipment includes 33 police vehicles, 2 ambulances and 2 boats.

The police department resources include 84 full-time officers, 25 auxiliary police, 3 dog wardens, 23 explorers, 10 fish and game wardens and 10 marine patrol officers.

The respondents to the community opinion survey expressed a positive attitude and general satisfaction toward the police department services in Enfield.

LIBRARY

The Enfield Public Library Department operates a central library on Middle Road and a branch facility at Pearl Street in Thompsonville. The library department houses the facilities of one of the larger public libraries in Connecticut and expands local service through cooperative arrangements with other Connecticut libraries and computer links to national and on-line databases. Facilities include community rooms for public meetings. Capital budget items planned for the library are carpet replacement and roof repair.

TOWN OFFICES

Enfield's general administrative offices are located in Town Hall at the corner of Enfield Street and Main Street in Thompsonville. Government is by Council-Manager form and departments operating from Town Hall include Town Manager, Finance, Tax Collector, Assessor, Building Department, Personnel, Town Clerk, Planning, Engineering, Purchasing, Corporation Counsel and Probate Court. The local Capital Budget include funding for on-going site improvement and facility renovations at Town Hall.

PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works facilities include the Stanley Jablonski Public Works Complex on Moody Road, the sewage treatment plant and dog pound on Parsons Road and a transfer station at the former landfill site on Town Farm Road.

The department has three divisions, highways, water pollution control and solid waste management.

The Capital Budget for 1997 - 2003 has \$6,600,000 scheduled for road paving; \$2,115,000 scheduled for replacement of public works equipment; \$900,000 for sidewalk repair and construction; \$1,200,000 to complete the close-out of the landfill; and \$4,202,000 for drainage improvement projects.

Town sanitary sewers serve about 95% of residential and industrial areas. The sewage treatment facility has a capacity of 10 MGD, with processed sludge taken to the Metropolitan District Commission facility in Hartford for disposal. Since the closure of the landfill, solid waste is also taken out of town after collection and compaction. The refuse is taken to Connecticut Resource Recovery Authority's trash to energy plant in Hartford.

Stormwater drainage management, flood hazard prevention, stream water quality protection and aquifer protection all involve a combination of land use management and development regulation with corrective capital improvements to address existing and anticipated deficiencies in the water resources system.

Our review of the regulatory techniques already in place in Enfield indicates that the community has adopted the full range of regulations available to protect water resources. The local capital improvement program includes a substantial budget for drainage improvement projects which address many of the most important problems identified in several watershed studies.

Going forward the two key elements to effectual and successful management of these resources would appear to be stringent application of the land use regulations in place combined with continued capital investment and an on-going review of capital budget priorities to be consistent with recommendations of the watershed studies.

It can not be overemphasized that all of these studies pointed to the importance of maintaining natural storage areas in wetlands and detaining increased runoff from new upstream developments. Failure to do so will aggravate downstream residential flooding and roadway overtopping even with corrective drainage improvements in place.

In some cases, even with corrective improvements to the drainage system and strict land use management in the watershed, some residences will require floodproofing to be safe from hazard. Since this involves private property, local capital improvements are not applicable. Consideration could be given to investigate potential funding sources such as DECD Small Cities Program for loans to make these improvements.

PRIVATE UTILITIES

Electric service in Enfield is supplied by the Connecticut Light & Power Company. Natural gas source is supplied by the Yankee Gas Company. Telephone service infrastructure is owned and operated by the Southern New England Telephone Company, with a merger pending with another firm.

There are two local water companies: the Connecticut Water Company serves Enfield, Thompsonville and North Thompsonville neighborhoods. The Hazardville Water Company serves the Hazardville, Scitico and Southwood Acres neighborhoods.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES PLAN

Based upon a review of existing community facilities and consideration of public input from the community survey and neighborhood meetings as well as advice from municipal departments, the following goals, objectives and recommendations are proposed as the 1998 Community Facilities Plan:

Goal: Provide an adequate and well-located infrastructure of community facilities sufficient to deliver high quality service throughout Enfield.

Objectives:

Provide the opportunity for a high quality public education to all children in Enfield.

Provide adequate facilities to deliver necessary public safety and emergency service throughout Enfield.

Provide adequate municipal facilities to deliver to the Enfield Community efficient and effective public works services including street maintenance, sewage disposal and treatment, storm drainage management and solid waste disposal.

Continue to rely upon and cooperate with private utilities to meet public water supply needs.

Continue to provide a modern high quality public library for the business, educational and recreational use of the community.

Recommendations:

1. Continue to make capital reinvestments to the school facilities to keep them up to date technologically and structurally.
2. Monitor demographic trends and manage existing classroom space to meet program needs at all levels.
3. Continue to provide public safety and emergency services and cooperate with and support volunteer fire services.
4. Continue to provide town administrative, public works and public library services.
5. Fund and implement the scheduled capital improvements to community facilities.
6. Amend town regulations to require sizing of water mains for new developments to include future downstream development.